

Mutual 2079, Los Angeles, in order that we may take the necessary steps to be in the doctor's office and receive Mr. Freeman when he undertakes to fill the appointment.

Any service you may render us in this respect will be highly appreciated.

(Signed) COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION.

By M. T. Emanuel,
Assistant Secretary.

337 South Hill Street, Los Angeles.

Subject of following letter: Fraudulent saleswoman of gowns.

To the Editor:—I have for some time felt that I should ask you to make announcement, through your proper columns, regarding what seems to be fraudulent sale of doctors' and nurses' gowns. About September 1 a woman, well dressed, with a pleasant line of sales argument, came to the Medico-Dental Building of San Jose and took orders for nurses' and doctors' gowns. The price was very attractive, being less than half the usual price of such wearing apparel. For cash she reduced the price 10 per cent, making the cost of an excellent doctor's gown \$1.35. She also stated that if we put in a larger order prior to September 15, we would still be receiving the same low price at that date. I purchased one gown at that price.

The woman was about forty-two years of age. She gave evidence of acquaintance with our relatives and friends, and implied a San Jose residence. No gowns have yet arrived. Word from the Denver Chamber of Commerce says there is no such company in Denver, she having claimed to represent the Excellor Uniform Company of Denver.

We are out our purchase price of the gowns and we have no gowns. The saleswoman has never returned and we do not know where to find her. Perhaps you can locate her and suggest to her a more honest way of employment.

PETER A. JORDAN, M. D.

910 Medico-Dental Building, San Jose.

Subject of this letter: A communication from the American Social Hygiene Association concerning a film—"Damaged Lives."

To the Editor:—As you know, the American Social Hygiene Association has agreed to lend its auspices to a film to be shown commercially, entitled "Damaged Lives," and we have written a scientific talk to go with the film dealing with what our special committee believes the public should know about syphilis and, incidentally, gonorrhea.

Mr. J. Frank Shea, Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, California, is the representative of the Weldon Pictures Corporation for planning the showings of this film in the following areas: California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Montana. I have told him that I felt confident you would do everything you properly could to aid him in bringing this picture to the attention of the public as a mass education project conducted upon conservative and ethical lines. . . .

. . . Anything you may do, of course, will be greatly appreciated by the officers and staff of this Association.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM F. SNOW,*

General Director.

450 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

Subject of this letter: A communication from the Director of Public Health of San Francisco, regarding "Body and Health" radio broadcasts.

To the Editor:—While broadcasting a few nights ago on the Safety Program of the California Automobile Association, Mr. Arthur S. Garbett, Director of Education, Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company, called my attention to a series of articles

sponsored by the University of California. The title of this series is "Body and Health." These talks are given on Friday afternoons at 3:45 o'clock.

After hearing the first speaker, Dr. Langley Porter, Dean of the Medical School of the University of California, I am convinced that every doctor should notify his patients of these lectures. Also the bulletins of the county medical societies should carry such notification of this series, which is so important to organized medicine.

It is my understanding that these talks are released through Stations KPO (San Francisco), KECA (Los Angeles), and KFSD (San Diego). I would suggest that notices of this series be placed in every clinic and every doctor's office in these localities.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,

Director of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco.

Subject of following letter: Some comments on what a State Board Examination reveals as lacking in the modern-day medical curriculum.

To the Editor:—The subject of medical education is one that has received much thought and study the last few years. We have had discussions, outlines, and a few practical experiments in changing the didactic methods. It may be of some interest and probably some practical and definite help in some phases of this problem to get the viewpoint of, and to see the results of, our modern system evidenced to a member of the Board of Medical Examiners by the answers made to some of our written examinations.

The July examination here in California—and I guess this is also true throughout the country—is taken largely by recent graduates, men who are just out of school, or who have just finished their internship. The results of five years' study are not entirely revealed by the final grade. Some answers provoke smiles, some guffaws, and some, I am sad to say, a question as to what in the world our medical schools are teaching and are not teaching. It has been interesting to the writer to find out that myopia is the most common cause of preventable blindness. He smiles to himself when he reads that the way to control a typhoid epidemic in a community is to isolate the case and report it to the health officer and let him attend to further details. You can almost snicker when you are told that birth control is one of the ways of reducing the mortality rate among children under the age of six years. I am violating no confidence, I am sure, when I report this answer to the following question: "What are the regulations in California regarding the dispensing of veronal, barbital and their derivatives?" The answer was: "The doctor may not prescribe these to anyone who, in his judgment, might use them to commit suicide. He may administer them to the patient himself if considered necessary."

There are, however, two elements in our modern medical education shown by other types of answers that must be met squarely by the medical profession and indicate faulty education and a lack of instruction which should be corrected by the medical schools. That is speaking frankly, but I think the medical profession will agree with me. In the first place, I feel that our medical schools are giving our young men an entirely wrong viewpoint of their future obligations to themselves and their fellows. Again and again the "buck" was passed to child hygiene clinics when it comes to reducing infant mortality and other related problems of childhood. Why are we educating these young practitioners to refer their patients either to the health officer or to various child hygiene, prenatal, and child-guidance clinics? I grant you that these are of value. They have come into being because we practitioners have neglected the opportunity offered to us in our daily contact with people, especially with young mothers and their new-born children.

I am not opposing clinics when properly controlled. It has been my privilege to coöperate with them, yet I feel that our young men should be trained to take

* Dr. William F. Snow resigned as Director of Public Health of the State of California to take over the directorship of the American Social Hygiene Association.